



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Proposed rule change:

Oregon Scenic Bikeways Rules

Date comment received:

April 21, 2023 12:22 PM

Commenter name (if provided):

Paul Lieberman

Commenter email (if provided):

president@mvbc.com

Location (if provided): Corvallis, OR

Public comment:

After reading your proposed rule changes apply to scenic bikeways definitions, committee makeup and committee processes, and include:

- expanding the number of public at-large seats on the Scenic Bikeways Committee.
- changing required committee affiliation criteria.
- clarifying the committee quorum.
- clarifying establishment of new route process and expanding the definitions.
- amending the definition of “Bicycle Path” to “Improved Public Ways”.
- adding accessibility language to include electric assisted bicycles, wheelchairs and other adaptive equipment.
- expanding the criteria for establishing new routes by adding the following: “minimizing adverse effects and conflicts between other existing recreation user types.”

I have to say this does not seem at all constructive to me. As far as I can tell the Scenic Bikeway Program has been paralyzed and without leadership for at least 5 years. It has been that long since I proposed rerouting the WWSB along the highway 34 bike path to the traffic light at Peoria Road to avoid the extremely dangerous crossing at White Oak Road. Every year I follow up, and every year I am told it's in the queue. Right now riders are forced to cross 4 lanes of busy traffic going 60 mph or faster on highway 34. Are you just waiting for someone to be killed to fix it? Especially when the fix is so trivial and just involves moving a couple of signs.

Speaking of people being killed, you may be aware that an Albany woman was killed by a car on the WWSB just outside of Albany last year. Have any steps been taken? Has anyone from the Scenic Bikeway program contacted the Linn County Sheriff to find out what's being done to make this road safer for cyclists?

The new rules I would like to see the scenic bikeway committee discussing would be less bureaucratic in nature and more action oriented. Your number one concern should be the safety of the riders out on these routes you have already created. My ideal would be big signs for drivers "Entering scenic bikeway, speed limit 35 MPH, Yield to cyclists". Is this even close to being on anyone's radar? If we are not working diligently to make these roads safer for cyclists we have no business promoting them as scenic bikeways. I'd rather see you scrap the scenic bikeway program and focus on separated bikeways like rail trails that are off limits to cars.

In short, I think safety should be your main concern, and I do not think changing rules and definitions are going to make the existing scenic bikeways any safer.